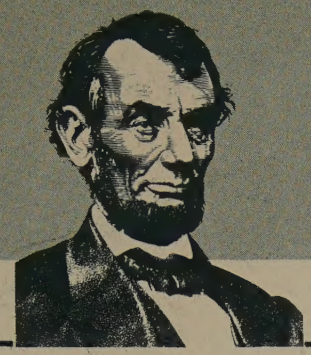

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
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ERRONEOUS ASSASSINATION REPORTS

While the account of the assassination of the Sixteenth President and the conspiracy to eliminate certain officials of the Lincoln administration may have been one of the most sensational news stories ever printed, it was also one of the most garbled.

The suddenness of the events caught most newspaper editors flatfooted and the wire service out of Washington was terribly jammed with startling reports which were hurriedly compiled and inaccurately prepared. Then, too, harassed editors often read into local events a certain cloak-and-dagger significance, which for a time would share the national spotlight, only to fade into insignificance later on.

One newspaper even enjoyed the dubious distinction of making no mention, whatever, of Lincoln's assassination or death, which undoubtedly indicates that the April 15, 1865 issue of the *New-York Times* was printed in advance of the tragic events.

A casual reading of approximately fifty newspapers featuring the assassination reveals considerable misinformation. Some newspapers were quick to condemn the Confederacy, and even a Spanish firm and a French desperado were accused of being implicated in a deep-laid plot. Some reports erroneously stated that an attempt was made on the life of Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, and a great many newspapers stated emphatically that Secretary of State, Seward, was dead. Booth was reported captured alive in about a dozen different places, and John Surratt was generally accused of being Seward's assassin.

Later editions of newspapers often corrected earlier issues, but even then many minor details which were inaccurately reported were allowed to be accepted as facts, and some readers likely never got an accurate newspaper account of the tragedy.

Some of the more glaring errors follow:

Hour Lincoln Died

"One dispatch announces that the president died at 12½ p.m. Another an hour later, states that he is still living, but dying slowly. We go to press without knowing the exact truth. . . ."

New-York Tribune
April 15, 1865

Midnight

"Who the assassins were nobody knows, though everybody supposes them to have been rebels."

Boston Evening Transcript
April 15, 1865

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

At Ford's Theatre, Washington, on the night of Friday, April 14, 1865.

PUBLISHED BY A. PHARAZYN, 229 SOUTH ST. PHILAD'A.

An inaccurate and crudely drawn assassination print published by A. Pharazyn, 229 South Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

More Evidence That The Act Was A Conspiracy

"During a conversation yesterday among the members of a Spanish firm in this city (New York) it was stated that to-day the greatest news would be received that had yet been made known to the public."

Boston Sunday Herald
April 16, 1865

Rumored Attempt On The Life Of Mr. Stanton

"Reports have prevailed that an attempt was also made on the life of Mr. Stanton."

The New-York Times
April 15, 1865

The President Dead

"The President Dead: Probable Attempt to Assassinate Sec'y. Stanton."

Bangor Daily Whig and Courier
April 17, 1865

9:30 This Morning

"Dispatches just received from Washington say that Secretary Seward died at 9:30 this morning."

The Saint Paul Press
April 16, 1865

Latest Afternoon Dispatches

"The attempted assassin of Mr. Seward named John Surritt.(sic)"

Buffalo Morning Express
April 17, 1865

Heart-Rending Intelligence

"Another patriot has fallen a victim, Secretary Seward, like the President, lies a corpse."

The Pittsburgh Evening Chronicle
April 15, 1865

Latest

"Secretary Seward has just expired."

Daily Milwaukee News
April 16, 1865

Special Dispatch

"The president died at 7½ o'clock this morning. Secretary Seward is just reported dead. His son Frederick is dead."

The Boston Herald
(Third Evening Edition)
April 15, 1865

Death of Seward

"He (Seward) died at 9:45 o'clock this morning."

Cleveland Morning Leader
April 15, 1865

Messenger of State Department Died

"Mr. Hansell, messenger in State Department, who was with Mr. Seward at the time of the assassination has died."

Herald Extra. Newburyport
April 15, 1865

Seward's Assassin Named Thompson

"New York:—The Commercial's special says: 'The name of the assassin who entered Mr. Seward's house is Thompson.'"

Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch
April 18, 1865

The Supposed Assassin and the French Lady

"It was stated in a former dispatch that the person arrested this morning as the party who attempted to take the life of the Secretary of State was supposed to be SURRAT. But there is reason to believe that the desperado is no other than THOMAS, the so-called French lady, who, it will be remembered, captured the steamer St. Nicholas in 1861, and was subsequently apprehended, tried, convicted, and sentenced to the penitentiary, from which by some means he was released. Nothing positive, however, is known on the subject."

The New-York Times
April 19, 1865

Pennsylvania Offers a Reward

"Gov. Curtin has issued a proclamation offering a reward of $10,000 for the arrest of Booth, who is reported to have been seen in this state, if arrested in Pennsylvania."

New York-Tribune
April 21, 1865

Taken Near Fort Hastings

"It is reported by a private dispatch, believed to be authentic, that Booth, the assassin of the president, was taken, Saturday afternoon, near Fort Hastings."

Springfield Daily Republican
April 15, 1865

The Assassin Arrested

"Booth is in custody. The other assassin not yet arrested. The detectives are on his track."

Dayton Daily Journal
April 15, 1865

Booth Captured

"It is reported that Booth was captured this morning. The story is that his horse threw him and injured him so severely that he was obliged to seek relief in a house on the Seventh Street road (Washington)."

The Indiana State Sentinel
April 17, 1865

The Herald's Special

"Booth has been captured near Baltimore, and will be placed on board a monitor anchored in the Potomac, off the Washington Navy Yard."

The Indianapolis Daily Journal
April 17, 1865

Booth, The Assassin Arrested

"The Merchants' Exchange has a dispatch that Booth, the assassin of the President, is arrested, and is safe in prison in Washington. The dispatch is dated 12 M."

Boston Daily Journal
April 15, 1865

Arrest of J. Wilkes Booth

"Tribune special from Washington says J. Wilkes Booth was arrested at 9 o'clock A.M. on the Bladensburg road. He boldly approached our pickets, and was arrested, and has just been brought to this city."

Boston Daily Evening Transcript
April 15, 1865

Boothe Captured

"A man who answers the exact description given of Boothe, the assassin, was arrested this morning on the accommodation train between Altoona and Greenburg."

The Pittsburgh Gazette
April 18, 1865

Booth Caught

"Booth, the murderer, was caught this morning, near Fort Washington."

The Pittsburgh Commercial
April 15, 1865.

About Thirty In Number

"A gentleman who was at Point Lookout yesterday A. M., was informed by an officer of one of our gunboats, that Booth and the other conspirators, about 30 in number, were in St. Mary's County, heavily armed, and endeavoring to make their way across the Potomac."

Galena (Ill.) Weekly Gazette
April 25, 1865

Surratt's Brother

"Today, it was confidently stated that Surratt, the supposed assassin of Mr. Seward, was captured. It is now reported to be his brother."

New-York Tribune
April 18, 1865

A Prediction

"Sometime during last March the New York *Journal of Commerce* stated upon what authority we know not, that the Confederates were about to do something that would astonish the nation. Little was thought of it at the time, but since the assassination of president Lincoln more than one has had his mind turned towards this prediction and wondered if it did not refer to the murder of our president."

LaPorte (Ind.) Herald
April 22, 1865

Oddities In The News Concerning Lincoln's Death and Funeral

Further Details

"For hours after the removal of the President's body from the house opposite Ford's, the building was regarded by thousands with the greatest curiosity.

"Later in the day a little boy was discovered rubbing bits of white paper on the steps, and afterwards carefully placing them in his pocket.

"On being asked to explain the reason for this singular proceeding, he said, with childish simplicity, 'Don't you see those dark stains on the board? It is the blood of the President, and I want to save it.' In years to come how priceless will be those scraps of paper, darkened by the heart's blood of the great emancipator."

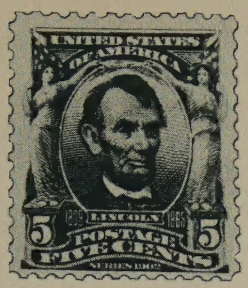
New-York Tribune, April 17, 1865

The Dog Mourner

"Under the car (hearse) there is walking a dog, though invisible from the outside. It is 'Bruno' the great Saint Bernard dog belonging to Edward H. Morton, Esq. He was standing with his master at the corner of Broadway and Chambers-street, as the car passed by, when suddenly, without warning, and in spite of his master's call to him to return, he sprang into the street, passed beneath the car, followed its motions, and is still there. By what instinct was this? For 'Bruno' was a friend and acquaintance of Mr. LINCOLN'S, and had passed some time with him only a few days before his death."

The New-York Times, April 26, 1865

5c LINCOLN—POSTAGE STAMP Issue of 1902-3 & 1908



The five-cent Lincoln stamp of the 1902-3 issue is blue in color and was first released on January 20, 1903. A description of the stamp follows: "Portrait of Lincoln. Female figures full robed, except the arms are resting against the portrait line, and crossing wands of palm over the vignette, with flags floating behind their heads. The numerals are in the lower corners."

The series, of which the five-cent Lincoln is one, was issued to replace the series of 1894. To add historical and educational interest to the series, the name of the person whose portrait is presented appears on each stamp and the year of birth and death. The words "Series 1902" appear in small type upon each of the stamps, with the legend "United States of America," "postage," and the denomination in words in bold-faced white letters as well as in Arabic numerals.

The Scott catalogue numbers follow:
304 (1902-3)—blue
304a—pale blue
315—blue

"This stamp was issued imperforate but all copies were privately perforated with large oblong perforations at the sides (Schermack type III)"

317 (1908)—blue "perforation 12 horizontally"

Other persons appearing on various stamps in this issue are Franklin, Washington, Jackson, Grant, Garfield, Martha Washington, Webster, Harrison, Clay, Jefferson, Farragut, Madison, and Marshall. The Lincoln portrait on the five-cent stamp, facing ¾ right, is from the original photograph taken at Washington, D. C. on September 2, 1864 by Mathew Brady.

"DEAR MR. LINCOLN"———

Letters Addressed To Lincoln In the Foundation Collection

(Continued from Lincoln Lore No. 1429)

63. GRIFFIN, JOHN (Phoenixville, Pa.) Feb. 27, 1861
Recommendation of Samuel Cornett for appointment to the office of U. S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Pa.

64. HARDING, AARON, & OTHERS. July 31, 1861
Petition recommending Jeremiah T. Boyle of Boyle County, Ky., for appointment to the position of U. S. District Judge for one of the districts in the state of Ky. Lincoln's endorsement: "Atty. Genl. please preserve this. A. L. Aug. 7, 1861."

65. HARRIS, GEORGE W., & OTHERS (Lebanon, Ohio) May 19, 1862
Recommendation of John T. Floyd of Springboro, Ohio for office of hospital chaplain.

66. HASKIN, JOHN B. (Fordham) June 2, 1863
Recommendation of Edmund J. Porter for appointment as governor or chief justice of one of the new territories of the west.

67. HELMRICK, W. (Washington, D. C.) March 6, 1861
Recommendation of Samuel Tean as qualified for appointment for one of the judgeships of Neb.

68. HENDERSON, J. B., & OTHERS (Washington, D. C.) July 15, 1862
Recommendation of Lieut. Frederick Dodge for appointment to the office as quartermaster or paymaster.

69. HOLLOWAY, D. P. (Washington, D. C.) July 19, 1862
Recommendation of L. C. Robbins practicing in the office of Solicitor of Patents who "would be incapable of performing any act unworthy of a man of honor with the object of obtaining official position."

70. HOPKINS, HENRY (Alexandria, Va.) June 16, 1862
Expressing appreciation of Rev. C. C. Painter of Va. for appointment to the office of hospital chaplain.

71. HOUGH, SHERWOOD (St. Paul, Minn.) Jan. 12, 1861
Recommendation of C. F. Buck for appointment to the office of U. S. Marshal for the District of Minn.

72. HOVEY, ALVIN P. (Indianapolis, Ind.) April 24, 1861
Recommendation of Judge Gookins for appointment as one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

73. HUTCHINSON, THOMAS, & OTHERS (Washington, D. C.) July 7, 1874
Petition requesting the reappointment of William James Cull as a Justice of the Peace for the district.

74. HUTCHINSON, W. F. (Falls Church, Va.) May 19, 1862
Request for the appointment of Lieut. L. M. S. Haynes to the position of hospital chaplain for the General Hospital.

75. JACQUES, DAVID R. (New York, N. Y.) Feb. 26, 1861
Recommendation of Judge Quackenbush "who is an applicant for a position under the incoming administration."

76. JAMES, A. B. (Ogdensburg, N. Y.) May 27, 1862
Recommendation of Edmund I. Porter for the office of Governor of the New Territory of Ariz.

77. JENNINGS, HENRY S. (Hastings, Minn.) April 20, 1864
Request for the position of judgeship in Ida. or Mont.

78. JONES, STILES P. (St. Paul, Minn.) Jan. 9, 1861
Recommendation of C. F. Buck for appointment to the office of U. S. Marshal of Minn.

79. JORDAN, A. L. (New York, N. Y.) Feb. 1, 1861
Recommendation of John C. Perry for the appointment to a judgeship in one of the territories of the U. S.

80. KARSNER, CHARLES (Germantown, Pa.) Sept. 3, 1862
Request for appointment to office of Chaplain to the Germantown Hospital.

81. KARSNER, CHARLES (Philadelphia, Pa.) Nov. 26, 1862
Request for appointment to office of Chaplain to the Germantown Hospital.

82. KEENE, WILLIAM W. JR., & OTHERS May 20, 1862
Recommendation of J. B. Davis for the post of Chaplain at the General Hospital.

83. KEIMAN, J. SPENCER (Washington, D. C.)
Recommendation of the Rev. Mr. E. F. Crane of New York for the post of chaplain at a hospital in Baltimore.

84. KELSEY, D. M., & OTHERS (Washington, D. C.)
Petition recommending William F. Lockwood for the office of Associate Justice of the Territory of Neb.

85. KING, & THOMPSON & OTHERS (Cincinnati, Ohio) Jan. 17, 1865
Petition of Cincinnati lawyers recommending reappointment of A. C. Sands as U. S. Marshal.

86. KING, PRESTON, (Washington, D. C.) March 26, 1861
A recommendation in favor of Edward C. Kattel for the office of judge or secretary in one of the territories.

87. KING, WILLIAM R., & OTHERS
Petition that a pardon be granted William R. King of Hawkins County, Tenn. and that he be allowed to take the oath prescribed in the President's Proclamation of Dec. 8, 1863.

88. KIRKER, JOHN (Wheeling, W. Va.) Oct. 15, 1864
Recommendation of Rev. David Trueman for appointment to Post Chaplain of the U. S. A. Post Hospital.

89. LACEY, H. B., & OTHERS
Recommendation of Jesse H. McMath of Cadiz, Ohio for appointment to office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Neb.

90. LANAHAN, J. (Washington, D. C.) May 23, ...
Request for appointment to post of hospital chaplain to any of the hospitals in Alexandria, Va.

91. LANDON, GEORGE (Harrisburg, Pa.) Jan. 25, 1861
Recommendation to the president-elect in favor of Lloyd Jones, an applicant for the appointment to the office of Marshal of the Eastern District of Pa.

92. LARNED, SYLVESTER March 20, 1861
Request for the President "to hold in suspense for one month the appointment of Mr. Stroughton as District Attorney for Mich. . . . so as to present to the president proof of his entire incapacity and lack of practice . . ."

93. LATTA, SAMUEL E. (Friendship, N. Y.)
Application for the release from the service of a boy (Emmet G. Latta) 15 years old.

94. LEARY, C. S. S. (Baltimore, Md.) April 22, 1864
Recommendation of Dennis S. Sweeney for appointment to the office of Associate Justice of the Territory of Mont.

95. LEARY, C. S. S. (Baltimore, Md.) Sept. 20, 1861
Recommendation of Henry Stump for "an appointment suitable to his requirements."

96. LEAVENWORTH, E. W. (Syracuse, N. Y.) March 6, 1861
Recommendation of George N. Kennedy for appointment to the office of U. S. District Attorney for the Western District of N. Y.

97. LEE, D. J. (Norfolk, Va.) June 21, 186....
Request for appointment as hospital chaplain to an area confined to Va. or Md.

98. LUCAS, J. M. (Port Lookout, Md.)
Recommendation of the Rev. Mr. D. J. Lee for appointment to the post of chaplain at Port Lookout, Md.

99. McCLELLAN, GEORGE B. (Cincinnati, Ohio) June 10, 1861
Recommendation of Gen. J. J. Reynolds for rank of Brigadier General to head Ind. troops.

100. McCLERNAND, JOHN A., & OTHERS
Petition recommending Nicholas Vidder of Ill. be appointed paymaster in the Army of the U. S.

101. McCORMICK, R. (New York, N. Y.) March 13, 1861
Recommendation of Charles C. Nott for the post of district attorney.

102. McDOWELL, W. C. (Leavenworth, Kan.) Dec. 10 1863
Recommendation of H. Miles Moore for appointment to the office of District Attorney of the U. S. for this district.

103. McELROY, J. M., & OTHERS (Fairfield, Ia.) Oct. 1864
Recommendation of the Rev. Joseph Kerr for the appointment to a post chaplaincy in the hospital service of the U. S. Army.

104. McKEE, A. R., & OTHERS (Danville, Ky.) Jan. 17, 1865
Petition requesting release of William Baughman, a prisoner of war at Camp Douglas.

105. MacKEE, JOSEPH (Brooklyn, N. Y.) Feb. 28, 1865
Request for "suitable employment in one or other of the Govt. Departments."

106. MACKENZIE, GEORGE P. (Alexandria, Va.) March 18, 1863
Request for the reappointment of the Rev. Rodney Gage as Chaplain of the General Hospital.

107. MACKENZIE, NORMAN K. (Wellsville, Ohio) Feb. 25, 1861
Recommendation addressed to the president-elect in favor of Jesse H. McMath for the office of Judge or Associate Judge of Neb. Territory.

108. MARSHALL, W. R. (St. Paul, Minn.) Feb. 15, 1861
Recommendation addressed to president-elect in favor of C. F. Buck for the appointment to the office of U. S. Marshal for Minn.

109. MARSHALL, W. R. (St. Paul, Minn.) Feb. 22, 1861
Recommendation addressed to president-elect in favor of George A. Nourse for appointment to office of U. S. District Attorney for Minn.

110. MEREDITH, J. E. (Harrisburg, Pa.)
Recommendation of Lloyd Jones for appointment to the office of Marshal of the Eastern District of Pa.

111. METCALF, DANIEL, & OTHERS (Camp Nelson) Nov. 10, 1864
Petition recommending the Rev. A. Scofield for the post of chaplain to the General Hospital.

112. MITCHELL, J. T., & OTHERS
Petition requesting that George J. Hawkins of Ky. be granted the privileges of the Amnesty Proclamation, to take the oath of allegiance and return home. Lincoln's endorsement: "Let this man take the Oath of Dec. 8, 1863 & be discharged. A. Lincoln. Jan. 24, 1865."

113. MORRIS, DeWITT C. March 7, 1865
Request for the position of Register of Deeds of the District of Columbia, under the Act of Feb. 17, 1863.

114. MORRISON, H. G. O. (St. Paul, Minn.) Jan. 5, 1860
Recommendation of C. F. Buck for some appointment in the administration.

115. MORTON, O. P. (Indianapolis, Ind.)
Six page letter relating to the military situation with a proposal to concentrate forces at Evansville, Jeffersonville, Madison and Cincinnati.

116. MORTON, O. P. (Indianapolis, Ind.) Sept. 26, 1861
Six page letter concerning the military situation in Ky. and its relation to Ind.

117. MUDGETT, B. S. (Washington, D. C.) March 14, 1861
Recommendation of Edmund J. Porter for appointment to the office of justice of one of the territories of the U. S.

118. MURDOCK, H. R., & OTHERS (Stillwater, Minn.) Feb. 15, 1865
Recommendation of Cyrus Aldrich for appointment to the office of U. S. Marshal for Minn.

119. MURRAY, JAMES (Columbus, Ohio) Jan. 14, 1861
Recommendation of Jesse H. McMath for appointment to the position of Chief Justice of the Territory of Neb.

120. N., C. (Miss) (Washington Co.) April 5, 1864
Appeal to Lincoln to give A. L. G., a private of Company.... of the 140th Regt., Pa., Vols. (1st Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Army Corps—Army of the Potomac) furlough. "We very foolishly indulged too freely in matrimonial affairs." Lincoln's endorsement: "Hon. Sec. of War. Send him to her by all means. A. Lincoln April 14, 1864." Notation: "Furlough granted."

121. NELSON, H. A. (Poughkeepsie, N. Y.) Jan. 1, 1863
Recommendation of Richard Peck for the appointment to the position of judgeship of one of the territories of the U. S.

122. NIXON, JOHN F. July 14, 1862
Recommendation of the Rev. A. W. Sproule for the appointment to the post of chaplain to the Upland Hospital at Chester, Pa.

123. ORTH, G. S. (Lafayette, Ind.) Aug. 26, 1864
Recommendation of Rev. Wm. S. Harker for appointment to the position of Post Chaplain in Nashville, Tenn., or Keokuk, Ia.

124. ORTH, G. S. (Washington, D. C.) Jan. 12, 1865
Requesting the discharge of private Randolph White who enlisted at the age of 16 and served nearly eighteen months with an Ind. regiment.

125. PADDOCK, A. S. (Omaha, Neb.) June 24, 1861
Recommendation of Wm. H. Taylor for appointment to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Neb. Territory.

Washt. City
Jany. 12, 1865

Mr. President:—

I failed, for some cause beyond my control, (altho, the very first member in the Executive Mansion this morning) to see you personally.

I have been requested by Mrs. White (widow of the late Judge White) to ask for the discharge of her son Randolph White, a private in the 40th Indiana Regt. He enlisted at the tender age of 16, has served nearly eighteen months, faithfully. His health is impaired and since the death of her husband she needs his presence at home to assist her in the management of her property, and the care of her younger children.

I respectfully ask that her petition be granted.

Respectfully
Godlove S. Orth

Note: Godlove S. Orth was a Republican Congressman from the Eighth Indiana Congressional District. See letter number 124.

126. PATCH, WILLIAM M. (Washington, D. C.) Oct. 28, 1861
Recommendation of H. B. Edwards for appointment to the position of U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Cal.

127. PAYNE, F. B. (Pocahontas, Ark.) Jan. 29, 1861
Recommendation of S. H. Hempstead for appointment to the position of Marshal of the Western District of Ark.

128. PELTON, G. R. (New York, N. Y.) March 4, 1861
Recommendation of Judge Quackenbush for appointment to the office of Marshal for the Southern District of N. Y.

129. PHILLIPS, STEPHEN H. (Boston, Mass.) Jan. 12, 1861
Recommendation of John S. Keyes for appointment to the position of Marshal for the District of Mass.

130. POTTER, R. W., & OTHERS (Brooklyn, N. Y.) Feb. 28, 1861
Petition of members of the Republican General Committee of the County of Kings, State of N. Y. recommending the appointment of John C. Perry to a Judgeship in the Territory of Neb.

131. POTTER, GEORGE F. (St. Paul, Minn.) Feb. 20, 1865
Recommendation of Cyrus Aldrich for appointment to the office of U. S. Marshal for the District of Minn.

(To be continued in the June 1957 issue)